Reply to Office action of September 21, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended) A circular litter container comprising:

- (a) a sidewall;
- (b) a scoop holder mounted on said sidewall for travel in a direction of travel around said sidewall;
- (c) a scoop;
- (d) a mounting mechanism for removably mounting said scoop on said scoop holder;
- (e) said mounting mechanism comprising cooperating mounting means on said scoop and said scoop holder for said scoop to have an operating position in which said scoop is oriented at a first angle relative to said direction of travel in which said scoop may be rotated through litter in said container while minimizing formation of a wave of litter piled in front of said scoop; and
- (f) said cooperating mounting means including a guide such that as said scoop is removed from said scoop holder, the orientation of said scoop is redirected to a second angle nearer to the horizontal then said first angle, whereby to help retain collected waste on said scoop-; and
- (g) said scoop including a rear portion in said cooperating mounting means including a plug and socket removably connecting said rear portion of said scoop to said scoop holder.

Appln. No. 10/740,485

Amendment/Response Dated January 18, 2005 Reply to Office action of September 21, 2004

Claim 2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (currently amended) A litter container according to claim 2 1 wherein said plug and socket means includes a substantially circular socket mounted on said scoop holder and a substantially circular plug mounted on said scoop, said plug being rotatable in said socket.

Claim 4 (original) A littler container according to claim 3 wherein said scoop has a front portion and said cooperating mounting means include a removable connection between said front portion of said scoop and said scoop holder, whereby said front portion of said scoop may be lifted upwardly relative to said scoop holder.

Claim 5 (currently amended) <u>A circular litter container comprising:</u>

- (a) a sidewall;
- (b) a scoop holder mounted on said sidewall for travel in a direction of travel around said sidewall;
- (c) a scoop;
- (d) a mounting mechanism for removably mounting said scoop on said scoop holder:
- (e) said mounting mechanism comprising cooperating mounting means on said scoop and said scoop holder for said scoop to have an operating position in which said scoop is oriented at a first angle relative to said direction of travel in which said scoop may be rotated through litter in said container while minimizing formation of a wave of litter piled in front of said scoop:

Appln. No. 10/740,485

Amendment/Response Dated January 18, 2005 Reply to Office action of September 21, 2004

- (f) said cooperating mounting means including a guide such that as said scoop is removed from said scoop holder, the orientation of said scoop is redirected to a second angle nearer to the horizontal then said first angle, whereby to help retain collected waste on said scoop.; and
- (g) A litter container according to claim 1 wherein said cooperating mounting means comprises comprising a track associated with one of said scoop and said scoop holder, and a guide piece associated with the other of said scoop and said scoop holder and movable within said track.

Claim 6 (original) said track is curved.

A litter container according to claim 5 wherein

Claim 7 (currently amended)

A circular litter container comprising:

- (a) a sidewall;
- (b) a scoop holder mounted on said sidewall for travel in a direction of travel around said sidewall;
- (c) a scoop;
- (d) a mounting mechanism for removably mounting said scoop on said scoop holder;
- (e) said mounting mechanism comprising cooperating mounting means on said scoop and said scoop holder for said scoop to have an operating position in which said scoop is oriented at a first angle relative to said direction of travel in which said scoop may be rotated through litter in said container while minimizing formation of a wave of litter piled in front of said scoop; and

Appln. No. 10/740,485

Amendment/Response Dated January 18, 2005

Reply to Office action of September 21, 2004

(f) said cooperating mounting means including a guide such
that as said scoop is removed from said scoop holder, the
orientation of said scoop is redirected to a second angle
nearer to the horizontal then said first angle, whereby to help
retain collected waste on said scoop-; and

(g) A litter container according to claim 1 wherein said container has having a bottom and said scoop holder includes including a scraper bar mounted to scrape said bottom as said scoop holder is rotated in said container.

Claim 8 (original) A circular litter container comprising a bottom, a sidewall encircling said bottom, a scoop holder mounted on said sidewall for travel around said sidewall, a scoop removably mounted in said scoop holder, and a scraper connected to said scoop holder for scraping said bottom of said container.

Claim 9 (original) A litter container according to claim 8 wherein said scraper is pivotally connected to said bottom of said container for rotary movement about said container.

Claim 10 (original) A circular litter container having a circular sidewall having an upper rim, a scoop holder mounted in said container for rotary movement in said container, a scoop removably mounted in said scoop holder, a cover removably mounted on said rim and rotatable on said rim, said cover having an opening therein, and connecting means for disengagably connecting said cover and said scoop holder such that rotation of said cover will rotate said scoop holder within said container.

Appln. No. 10/740,485 Amendment/Response Dated January 18, 2005 Reply to Office action of September 21, 2004

Claim 11 (original) A litter container according to claim 10 wherein said opening in said cover is adjacent said scoop holder.

Claim 12 (original) A litter container according to claim 11 and having a bottom, and wherein said scoop holder includes a scraper bar for scraping said bottom.

Claim 13 (original) A litter container according to claim 12 and including cooperating means associated with said scoop and said scoop holder for redirecting the orientation of said scoop from a first angle to a second angle when said scoop is removed from said container, said second angle being closer to the horizontal then said first angle.

Claim 14 (currently amended) <u>A circular litter container comprising:</u>

- (a) a sidewall;
- (b) a scoop holder mounted on said sidewall for travel in a direction of travel around said sidewall;
- (c) a scoop;
- (d) a mounting mechanism for removably mounting said scoop on said scoop holder;
- (e) said mounting mechanism comprising cooperating mounting means on said scoop and said scoop holder for said scoop to have an operating position in which said scoop is oriented at a first angle relative to said direction of travel in which said scoop may be rotated through litter in said container while minimizing formation of a wave of litter piled in front of said scoop; and
- (f) said cooperating mounting means including a guide such that as said scoop is removed from said scoop holder, the

Appln. No. 10/740,485 Amendment/Response Dated January 18, 2005 Reply to Office action of September 21, 2004

orientation of said scoop is redirected to a second angle nearer to the horizontal then said first angle, whereby to help retain collected waste on said scoop-; and

(g) A litter container according to claim 1 wherein said scoop includes including a first sieve having openings of a predetermined size, and further including a second sieve attachable to said first sieve and adapted to cover said first sieve creating a finer screen for litter than either of said first and second sieves separately.